

All About the U.S. Navy's Hospital Ship "MERCY"

Military Sealift Command
Washington, D.C.



MISSION

USNS Mercy is a hospital ship whose primary mission is to provide an afloat, mobile, acute-surgical medical facility to the U.S. military that is flexible and capable of supporting expeditionary warfare. Her secondary mission is to provide medical and surgical services, afloat and ashore, to support U.S. disaster relief and humanitarian operations worldwide.

ABOUT THE SHIP

USNS Mercy, a converted supertanker, was commissioned in 1986 and is one of two U.S.

Navy hospital ships. San Diego-based Mercy, like her Baltimore-based sister ship USNS Comfort, usually remains in reduced operating status.

When needed, Mercy can be activated and underway in just five days. In reduced operating status, a cadre crew of 12 civil service mariners and 58 medical and non-medical military members maintain Mercy in a high state of readiness.

In full operating status, Mercy's onboard contingent can expand to up to 61 civil service mariners and 1,214 military personnel. The ship is operated by civil service mariners from the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command, and the onboard Medical Treatment Facility is staffed by military personnel from the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

She is the third hospital ship to bear the name. Previous ships distinguished themselves in service in World War I, World War II and other military missions.

MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY

The Medical Treatment Facility aboard USNS Mercy is one of the largest trauma facilities in the United States and offers a full spectrum of surgical and medical services. Patients primarily arrive aboard by helicopter and sometimes by small boat.

Mercy has four X-ray rooms, a CAT scan unit, a cardio-thoracic angiography suite, a dental surgical suite, an optometry and lens laboratory, a physical therapy and burn care center, a pharmacy and a medical supply center. The ship maintains up to 5,000 units of blood and also produces oxygen and nitrogen. Mercy's galley, one of the largest afloat, can feed 2,500 people three times daily.



OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/STORM

In August 1990, Mercy deployed to the Middle East for eight months in support of multinational allied forces in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The medical facility admitted 690 patients and performed nearly 300 surgeries.

OPERATION UNIFIED ASSISTANCE

After the December 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia, USNS Mercy deployed for five months to the area to provide humanitarian support. The mission expanded to aid those affected by earthquakes and a volcanic eruption in the region. Mercy provided assistance to Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea.

Medical personnel treated more than 107,000 patients, performed 466 surgeries, distributed 11,555 pairs of eyeglasses and performed more than 6,900 dental procedures. Mercy's civil service mariners and military biomedical technicians repaired infrastructure and medical equipment in hospitals, clinics and other public buildings, enabling them to quickly become operational.

THE U.S. NAVY'S MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND

Mercy is one of more than 110 non-combatant, civilian-crewed ships operated by Military Sealift Command, whose primary mission is worldwide ocean transportation for the Department of Defense.

MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY OVERVIEW



Total Beds:	1,000
Intensive Care Beds:	80
Recovery Beds:	20
Intermediate Care Beds:	400
Minimal Care Beds:	500
Casualty Receiving Stations:	50
Operating Rooms:	12

Surgical Capabilities:

General	Orthopedic
Cardiac and Thoracic	Dental
Ear/Nose/Throat	Plastic
Neurosurgery	Maxillofacial
Ophthalmic	Urology
Obstetric and Gynecology	

Non-Surgical Medical Capabilities:

Internal Medicine	Dermatology
Dialysis	Psychiatry
Respiratory Therapy	Angiography

Ancillary and Support Services Capabilities:

Dental Prosthetics	Lens Fabrication
Laboratory	Radiology
Pharmacy	Blood Bank
Medical Equipment Repair	Dietary
Burn Treatment	Physical Therapy
Medical Supply	Laundry

SHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Length.....	894 feet
Beam.....	106 feet
Draft.....	33 feet
Full Load Displacement.....	69,360 long tons
Speed.....	17.5 knots
Crew Size (Reduced and Full Operating Status):	
Civilian Mariners	ROS: 12 FOS: 61
Medical Treatment Facility Personnel	ROS: 58 FOS: 1,214
Converted by National Steel & Shipbuilding Co., San Diego	